

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application.

Claims 1 and 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Dublin, Jr. et al. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is in error as Dublin, Jr. et al. does not disclose a bearing failure indicator comprising a second member mounted on a bearing-supported shaft and including at least one projection which, after a predetermined amount of bearing wear, comes into contact with a first member disposed concentrically to the shaft, with this contact **generating an audible sound**.

Dublin, Jr. et al. disclose a bearing failure indicator which may take various forms, as described in column 8, lines 19-64, with the only acoustic sensor being one that senses bearing noise when the auxiliary bearing takes on a load previously borne by the primary bearing. This arrangement does not include a second member having a projection which engages a first member for generating an audible sound, as required by claim 1. Claims 3-5 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are likewise thought allowable.

Claim 3 is thought allowable for the additional reason that Dublin, Jr. et al. do not disclose the required tooth having an arcuate surface facing radially outwardly from the shaft axis and the required contact surface that faces radially inwardly toward said axis such that a predetermined clearance gap is established between the tooth and the contact surface when the shaft support bearing is not worn, with the tooth and contact surface colliding to generate the audible sound when the bearing becomes worn.

Claim 4 is thought allowable for the additional reason that it requires the first member to be part of a bearing housing, and requires the second member to be a disk with the projection being a radially outwardly extending tooth, and no such structure is present in Dublin, Jr. et al.

Claim 5 is thought allowable for the additional reason that it requires the second member to be a disk and for the projection to be a protrusion extending radially outwardly from the disk, and no such structure is evident in Dublin, Jr. et al.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carpenter. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is in error as Carpenter does not disclose a structure which generates an audible sound, as claimed, for warning

an operator of an impending bearing failure, but rather relies on various structures using bearing wear to effecting wear through an insulating coating of an element of an electrical alarm circuit in order to effect a completed circuit to a warning device for warning the operator of an impending bearing failure.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Raad. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is in error as Raad does not disclose a structure which generates an audible sound, as claimed, for warning an operator of an impending bearing failure, but rather relies on an electrical warning circuit including a sensor 18 which provides a resistance that changes, when an insulator 60 is worn through as a result of main bearing failure, so as to send a signal to an operator that the main bearing has failed.

It is noted that the Examiner considers dependent claims 2, 6, and 7, to contain allowable subject matter. Since each of these claims depends from claim 1, and claim 1 is thought allowable for the reasons stated above, these claims too are thought allowable.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully,


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